

ROUTING META DATA FOR NETWORK FILE ACCESS

ABSTRACT

Systems and methods by which data files may be accessed over routable networks are described. In accordance with this approach, routing meta data is provided along with conventional file access meta data in response to a data file access request so that client file systems may optimize the selection of routes over which a file is accessed based upon client-specific criteria (e.g., packet delay and fragmentation criteria). In this way, the sub-optimal route selection that may occur with table-based network routing protocols, as well as the network overhead that otherwise would be required to select optimal routes using such table-based network routing protocols, are avoided.

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